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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HINTS TO A POETICAL FRIEND.

COWPER should not be your model for the structure of blank verse. Milton (*Paradise Lost* especially) far transcends him and all the poetical world in the admirable "building of the lofty line;" thoroughly to understand the subject, you should carefully study *Sheridan's art of reading poetry*, in this he develops the nature and the properties of Rhythm, the power of the pause of suspension, on which the beauty of blank verse so greatly depends, and all the other important and minute circumstances that influence its construction; he takes Milton as his great example and his theme, and from his immortal original, deduces a system of harmonious variety in blank verse, which must essentially assist a poet in the technical department of composition. Akenside ranks next to Milton in these grand requisites. Cowper seemed to disdain these artifices, and the consequence is, that in some passages he is distressingly and unnecessarily rugged—to his elision also I have an insuperable objection, but his sentiment is invaluable, his morality pure and impressive, and a vein of religion pervades the work, which, like the gold in Lapis Lazuli, imparts richness without heaviness, and seems not superinduced by art, but to have entered into the original frame and composition of the subject.

L.

CHARTER OF CARRICKFERGUS.

Continued from p. 427, No XXII

AND furthermore we have grant
ed, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the said mayors, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town, and to their successors, that they, or the greater part of them, whereof we will, that the mayor of the said town for the time being, shall be one at their will and pleasure, without our license, or the license of our heirs, or successors, shall be able, and of power from time to time, as often as it shall seem expedient unto them, according unto their own discretion to elect and admit others

whatsoever, either one or more to be free burgesses of the same town. And that all and every such free burgesses of the aforesaid town, which either now are, or hereafter shall be elected, or admitted as aforesaid, may be able, and of power to enjoy, and use all their free commerce, functions, mysteries, crafts, trades and traffics, and all and every other liberties, and free customs pertaining or belonging to the free burgesses of the same town, according to the laws, customs, liberties, and ordinances of the said town, we will notwithstanding, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town, and to their successors, that they, or the greater part of them, whereof we will that the mayor of the said town (for the time being shall be one) may be able, and of power, at their will and pleasure, from time to time, as often as it shall seem expedient, that if any one or more whatsoever of the free burgesses, or inhabitants of the said town, do not carry and behave themselves as doth, and shall become a free burgess of the town, or do refuse to take the oath commonly called the oath of supremacy, specified and set down in a statute in parliament, held in this kingdom, in the second year of the reign of our late dear sister lady Elizabeth of England, France and Ireland, queen, then to depose and put from the said liberties, and from their free commencement within the said town, and the franchises of the same, as also from the exercise and benefit of any, their functions, mysteries, or other crafts within the said town, and the franchises of the same, and from the use and benefit of the liberties and free customs of the said town, as long as it shall seem expedient to the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty, or to the greater part of them, of whom we will that the mayor of the said town for the time being shall be one.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and com-